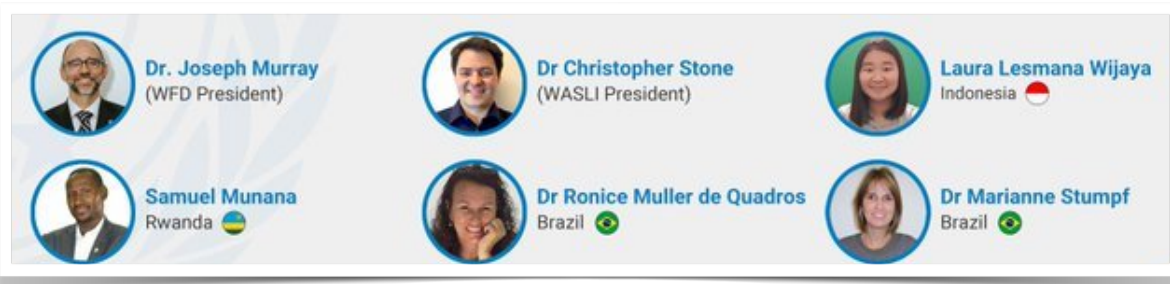




# WASLI

World Association of  
Sign Language Interpreters

## Newsletter April 2021



### WASLI online conference

**July 9-11 2021**

WASLI is planning an online event to bring our global interpreting community together.

We aim to have an opportunity for interpreters from different regions to meet and socialise.

We will also be sending out a call for papers for presenters to present on relevant issues addressing the theme:

*'What have we learnt from 2020-21?'*

We hope that you will be able to come and meet colleagues and friends.

We also hope that you will benefit from the presentations.

We look forward to seeing you in July.

### WFD 70th year

WASLI were delighted to be able to join the WFD in celebrating their 70th anniversary. We were invited to join the WFD President dr. Joe Murray on a panel regarding 'Organising synergies between National Association of the Deaf and National Sign Language Interpreter Associations'.

We were joined by Profs Ronice Quadros de Müller and Marianne Stumpf who had previously presented at the WASLI 2019 conference in Paris. They discussed collaboration between deaf community representatives, interpreter profession representatives and academics to influence government, interpreter training, and access.

We were also joined by Laura Lesmana Wijaya from Indonesia and Samuel Muana from Rwanda, who gave perspectives on working with National Deaf Associations.

It was great to continue our fruitful collaboration with the WFD. We are currently looking at updating our Cooperation Agreement to ensure that it remains relevant.

### Africa region

We are sad to report that Loveness Simbeye died on 28th March 2021, at the age of 59. She was the director of the Zambia National Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ZNASLI) and was one of the very



## ISAAB - news

The ISAAB recently had a meeting. They have invited the first cohort of IS accredited interpreters to renew their accreditation and start a new professional development cycle (24 hours per year).

The next step is to issue a call for applications for either pre-accreditation or accreditation.

## Conference 2023

Our conference co-convenors Lucy Lam and Anthony Chong continue to work with our Korean Association of Sign Language Interpreters (KASLI) liaison Lydia Koh on the organisation of the conference.

We now have the head of several committees appointed and there should be calls for various roles in the back end of 2023.

As is agreed our conference will happen in the same place as the WFD and will happen just before the WFD conference. This is so that those interpreters who may be coming to work at the WFD can attend the conference. We have found that this allows for interpreters who might typically be under represented, to attend if WASLI conference is planned back to back with the WFD conference.

## ISO Expert Group

Samuel Chew has now been added as a WASLI expert to the working group on the revision of the Community Interpreting standard ISO 13611 that will be lead by dr. Debra Russell.

first sign language interpreters in Zambia. She was part of the first cohort in Eastern and Central Africa to be trained as SLIs under the Finish Deaf Association project.

## Arab region

SELAA in association with WASLI, organised a series of meetings for interpreters and deaf people in the region. The first workshop was given by Maghdi Yaghi and Sameer Jamal who are deaf interpreters from the region. Maghdi is also the Arab region Deaf Interpreter adviser for WASLI. WASLI President, dr. Stone, sent a pre-recorded message of support. 58 interpreters from all over the Arab world participated in the workshop.



The second meeting (6-7 April) was organised by TAMKEEN in collaboration with SELAA and WASLI> The topic was 'Challenges facing deaf people in light of Corona'.



And a third conference on 28-29 April, was organised by the Egyptian association for deaf rights in cooperation with SELAA.

## Asia

An online event is being jointly organized by WASLI Asia and WFD RSA on Saturday, June 26, 15:00-18:00 (ICT).

The Japanese Association of Sign Language Interpreters (JASLI) has surveyed regarding JSL interpretation at

## Swiss Board member

The main activity has been opening a Swiss bank account, required since WASLI's seat was officially moved to Geneva, Switzerland in 2019.

Vetting is strict as there have been several cases of money laundering in Switzerland with Swiss banks being accused by the international community for engaging in improper business.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also prevented people from travelling. Our board members have not been able to sign in person, preferred by Swiss banks. So this has also caused challenges.

Fortunately, PostFinance Switzerland have been flexible. And WASLI is now the proud owner of a Swiss bank account.

Next step will be transferring the WASLI assets to the Swiss account, setting up e-banking and closing the HSBC account in the UK.

The WASLI tax declaration in the canton of Geneva has been completed together with our new WASLI manager Maria Gil Diaz for the years 2020 and 2021.

The formalities are getting easier, as we better understand the processes. The French language only policy of the Geneva authorities, adds another layer of fun!

COVID\_19 related press conferences. Here are some points:

### *Timing of the appearance of JSL interpreters at the press conferences*

Over 70% of the local governments started to appoint sign language interpreters at the press conferences during the COVID-19 pandemic while the rest already had them before that.

### *Coordination of JSL interpreters*

JSL interpreters are coordinated by information centres for the Deaf, local Deaf associations, local branches of JASLI in descending order of appointment times. This may change if the number of JASLI branches grows.

### *Number of interpreters*

Two interpreters working as a team are appointed in more than 70% of the cases. However, some coordinating bodies adjust the number depending on the length and the contents of the press conference.

### *Broadcasting methods and arrangement of rooms for interpretation*

Almost half of the press conferences are recorded and interpretation is added afterwards. In case of live broadcasting, 25% of the interpreters work in a separate room. This prevents JSL interpreters from becoming a source of an infection as well as getting infected.

### *Study groups*

Study groups for COVID-19 related sign language interpretation become in high demand as many administrative terms and technical jargons are used at the press conferences. More than 60% of the study groups are hosted by JASLI branches. The participants discuss which sign they should use for certain expressions, exchange information, and organise issues.

### *Considerations*

Sign language interpreters gained public attention as more people see them at the press conferences on TV during the COVID-19 pandemic. This brought a great achievement for wider recognition of sign language from society, and advancement of information accessibility for Deaf people.

However, as the situation of each region differs, the

interpreters at the sites face many challenges and are still in the process of trial and errors.

## Congratulation are due to the WASLI Secretary - dr. Heyerick

On March 1st, WASLI Secretary Isabelle Heyerick successfully defended her PhD thesis "A descriptive study of linguistic interpreting strategies in Dutch - Flemish Sign Language interpreting. Exploring interpreters' perspectives to understand the what, how and why.". The research was done under supervision of prof. dr. Vermeerbergen and the members of the examination committee were dr. Robert Adam (Heriot-Watt University), dr. prof. em. Peter Flynn (KU Leuven), dr. prof. Lorraine Leeson (Trinity College Dublin), dr. prof. Jemina Napier (Heriot-Watt), and dr. prof. Heidi Salaets (KU Leuven).



You can watch the presentation and download the thesis on <https://strategicinterpreting.blog/2021/03/04/phd-presentation-and-dissertation/>

## WASLI support

You can give the gift of WASLI all year round!

You can make a donation through our PayPal

Donation button: [wasli.org/donation](https://wasli.org/donation)

Or donate via bank transfer - if so please contact our Treasurer Nigel Howard at:

[treasurer.wasli@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wasli@gmail.com)

Membership fees can be found:

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Thank you

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